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WEARDALE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963

No. 6 Health Area,
"Springfield"
WILLINGTON
Crook, Co. Durham.

Tel: Willington 375.

P U B L I C H E A L T H O F F I C E R S

O F T H E C O U N C I L

Medical Officer of Health - G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D.,D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector - R. G. SUDDICK, Cert.R.S.I.Lond.

WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the Weardale Rural District Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Medical Report for the Weardale Area, for the year 1963.

The birth rate was lower than, and the death rate higher than those of England and Wales as a whole. Since 1958 one of the features of vital statistics in Weardale has been the excess of deaths over births and a birth rate constantly lower than the National rate.

Of the deaths recorded, over 56% have been due to diseases involving the heart and circulatory systems and of these 25.6% have been due to coronary artery disease.

Among the infectious diseases only Measles, of the notifiable ones, was prominent in a mild form. Of the non notifiable ones, there was an outbreak of mild gastro-enteritis, particularly among lower age groups. This condition usually lasted about 4-7 days and appeared to be self limiting and possibly of virus origin. No cases of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria were recorded. The cases of Tuberculosis discovered, were, fortunately in the early stages and the prognoses were good. Preventive measures against this disease were continued actively during the year with visits of the Mass X-Ray Unit, B.C.G. immunisation of children at school over the age of 11 years and tuberculin testing of school entrants. Health Visitor follow up of notified Tuberculosis cases and contacts continued throughout the year.

A campaign against Diphtheria was undertaken in the area in schools and immunisation was greatly assisted by the co-operation of your local general practitioners. The response was good.

Undulant Fever was discovered in two cows in the area but was rapidly suppressed by destroying the cattle affected. At a later date another cow was found to be excreting Brucella Melitensis in its milk but strict measures eradicated this potential public health hazard and no human cases occurred.

The Materinity and Child Welfare Clinics at Stanhope and Wolsingham, twice monthly, continued to function with moderate attendances.

Mr. Suddick, your Public Health Inspector has appended his annual report.

In conclusion I wish to record my thanks for your assistance and that of the other members of your staff during 1963.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. MACGREGOR.

CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year)	...	...	8,090
Area (In Acres)	...	...	99,652
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	3,172
Rateable Value	...	...	£249,289
Product of Penny Rate			£1,002

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	85	39	46
Illegitimate	4	3	1
	<u>89</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>47</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	10.01
General Birth Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	18.2

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Rate per 1,000 (live and still)	...	...	11.12

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	133	69	64
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	16.44
Death Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	12.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	...	11.24
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	...	20.9
Infantile Mortality Rate 1,000 live births - legitimate	...	11.76
Infantile Mortality Rate 1,000 live births - illegitimate	...	-
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	-
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	-
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	11.11
Deaths from Cancer	...	-
Deaths from Measles	...	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	-

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

Year	Death Rate	Infantile death Rate Under 1 year	Birth Rate
1958	14.28	-	13.61
1959	14.24	27.77	12.20
1960	18.88	26.30	12.62
1961	16.88	41.66	14.37
1962	16.54	8.55	14.34
1963	16.44	11.24	10.01

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1963

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over	
1. Tuberculosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
2. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
3. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Diabetes	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Coronary Diseases, Angina	M	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Other Heart Disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Other Circulatory Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Pneumonia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Bronchitis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Congenital Malformations	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. All Other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Suicide	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OF ALL CAUSES	M	69	-	1	1	1	2	1	4	10	28	25		
	F	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	17	32		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	27	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	6
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-
Tuberculosis	5	3	1

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past six years:-

Year	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1958	-	-	1	-
1959	-	-	4	-
1960	-	-	-	-
1961	-	-	2	-
1962	-	-	-	-
1963	-	-	2	-

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1963

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year:-

Disease	Under 1 yr	1 - 2 yrs	3 - 4 yrs	5 - 9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	25-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	6	4	11	5	1	-	-	-	27
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
65 & over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	1

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS

Year	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1958	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
1959	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
1960	2	3	5	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
1961	5	-	5	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	-
1962	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1963	2	2	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of
P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1963.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the Weardale Rural District is within the area of supply of the Durham County Water Board. The supplies were satisfactory and no complaints of shortage arose.

Samples of water were taken, including two private supplies to farms, in connection with grants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and these were found to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The new sewage works at Stanhope were under course of construction and the sewerage extensions to Burtreeford and Burnside, Rookhope were duly completed.

Work was also in progress in connection with the new sewerage and sewage schemes at Frosterley and Edmundbyers.

Schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for the Western Part of the District and new sewage works to serve Wolsingham and Thornley District were under consideration.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

As the schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal progress, the position regarding the installation of water closets should improve, and in the larger built up areas of Wolsingham, Frosterley and Stanhope, the number of dry closets is very small indeed.

Property owners again took advantage of the Council's Scheme, allowing a grant of half the cost, up to maximum of £20, for water closet conversions. During the year grants were paid involving nine properties, the total amount paid amounting to £176. 7. 9d. Water closets were also provided under the Housing Improvement Grant Schemes.

The types of closets at the end of the year were:-

Water Closets	-	2,599
Ash-closets	-	485
Ashpit-privies	-	85.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse was carried out satisfactorily. The two new Shelvoke & Drewry Refuse Collecting vehicles were brought into service at the beginning of May.

The estimated weight of refuse removed was 5,402 tons, the vehicles covering 18,427 miles.

Refuse is disposed of at the three tips at Lanehead Quarry, Stanhope, Brown's Houses Quarry, Frosterley and Harperley Bank Quarry.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The whole time rodent operator was engaged on the disinfection of dwellings, business premises, farms, refuse tips, sewers and sewer fields. Of properties inspected, treatments (including re-treatments) were carried out on 273 dwellings, 5 business premises and farms and 44 other properties (refuse tips and sewer fields).

Cost of the work on business premises and farms is recoverable on the basis of actual cost plus overhead expenses.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of the shops and food premises were carried out, the standard of these being generally satisfactory. Inspections were also carried out in connection with registration for the sale of ice cream and the making of sausages.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspections of the four registered private slaughter-houses in the district were carried out, and these were found to be satisfactory.

In the period from 1st October, 1963, when the inspection of all animals slaughtered became compulsory, to the end of the year, the following carcasses were inspected:-

Cattle	-	114
Sheep	-	422
Pigs	-	41.

The standard of animals slaughtered in the district was generally good, and only a minor amount of liver was condemned.

Tinned foods in shops was condemned on 43 instances, and in each case the food was surrendered voluntarily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was necessary regarding smoke abatement, there being few industries in the district of the type associated with smoke nuisance.

FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts, and minor defects were remedied in three instances, following informal action.

TENTS, VANS, ETC.

Inspections were carried out under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, in connection with site licences requirements.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits undertaken by the Department, during the year:-

Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	196
Housing (Overcrowding)	2
Sanitary Conveniences	36
Drainage	65
Water Supply	20
Food Premises	174
Shops Act	49
Dairies	8
Slaughter-houses	16
Tents, Vans etc.	56
Factories and Workplaces	54
Keeping of Animals	2
Insanitary ashpits and receptacles	96
Offensive accumulations	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests	65.

NUISANCES

The following table gives the principal nuisances dealt with by means of notices:-

	Informal Notices <u>Served</u>	Statutory Notices <u>served</u>	Defects <u>Remedied</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts	6	0	6
Sanitary Conveniences	6	0	6
Drainage	4	0	4
Water Supply	1	0	1
Factories & Workplaces	3	0	3
Ashpits & receptacles	16	0	16

HOUSING

23 New Bungalows for aged persons were erected by the Council during the year and occupied, as follows:-

Wolsingham	-	5
Stanhope	-	8
Frosterley	-	10

Housing(continued)

Two new dwelling houses were also erected by the Police Authorities on the Crofts Estate at Wolsingham.

Further owners took advantage of the schemes to improve properties and during the year 16 applications for the Standard Grant and 33 applications for the Discretionary Grant were approved.

The improvement works at Numbers 5 and 6 Chapel Street, Stanhope, were duly completed by the Council's direct labour force.

I have the honour to be

Yours obediently,

R. G. Suddick